

DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE
OFFICE OF EDUCATION
WASHINGTON 25, D.C.

February 8, 1961

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Dear [REDACTED]

This letter is to elaborate on plans I mentioned to you earlier on an Office of Education conference on Soviet education and to invite you to attend as a participant.

The subject of Soviet education has in recent years received progressively more attention in view of Soviet scientific achievements, and a number of good studies have been produced in the United States. There remain, however, noticeable inadequacies in the information on Soviet education. Congressional, university, and other inquiries made to this Office reveal a pattern of the most pressing needs for more thorough information, generally at the points where education is linked with other fields.

Questions, often deceptively simple in phraseology, require at present extremely qualified replies until more thorough research is done. Typical of these are:

1. What is the Soviet budget for education? What is its relation to the gross national product of the USSR? How does the Soviet budget for education compare with that of the United States?
2. What are teachers' salaries in the Soviet Union? How do their salaries compare with that of other professionals and of workers in the Soviet Union? How do the salaries compare with United States salaries? What is the status of teachers in the USSR as compared with teachers in the United States?
3. How many scientists and engineers does the Soviet Union produce annually? How many chemists, physicists, biologists, mathematicians, etc., are graduated annually? How many have "masters' and doctors' degrees"? What is the trend in graduations? Are other fields neglected as a result of the emphasis on producing scientists and engineers?

Miss [REDACTED]

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February 8, 1961

It is my belief that among the best informed persons on various aspects of Soviet education such as the ones I have described, and those analysts with the most current information, are Soviet area specialists in various branches of our government. I am, therefore, planning an inter-agency conference on Soviet education, to be held in the Office of Education at the end of next May.

Participants in the conference will include Soviet area specialists from the Library of Congress, the Bureau of Census, the National Science Foundation, and the Departments of State, Labor, and Health, Education and Welfare. Would it be convenient for you to participate to the extent of preparing a paper to be read at the conference? Hopefully, the paper along with those prepared by other participants at the conference would be published in an Office of Education publication.

I believe that the topics selected for papers by the participants should provide them with an opportunity to analyze the abundance of Soviet statistics and other data made available in the last five years and possibly indicate trends for the future. These analyses should be geared to the educational aspects of the field being followed by each specialist in his current work.

I would appreciate receiving any suggestions concerning the topic on which you might be prepared to present a paper or concerning the subject matter and organization of the conference in general, since the emphasis is on interchange of ideas and inter-agency teamwork. If you think that it would be of value to invite someone else from the agency or elsewhere, either as a participant or as an observer, I would appreciate having his name and field of specialization.

Although I will be out of the country for the next eight weeks, I invite you to make any comments or suggestions you may have in the interim so that planning for the conference may proceed. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely yours,

Seymour M. Rosen
Specialist for Eastern Europe
International Educational Relations
Division of International Education

Attachment